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CLASSIFICATION SECRET
SECRETCOUNTRY East GermanyTOPIC 1st VPL Division

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. According to rumors circulating at the headquarters of the 1st Air Division in April 1953, new VPL units were to be activated. Oranienburg was mentioned as a new military post. Some hundreds of beds had already been shipped from Bautzen to Oranienburg. The new VPL units were to be organized by October 1953. However, 25X1 source believed that this target dated could not be kept.¹

2.

3. In April 1953, [redacted] that a total of 70 crated MiG-15s had arrived at Cottbus by rail. An additional 30 MiG-15s were to follow, so that the division would be equipped with a total of 100 MiG-15s. Prior to 24 April, no flight training had been conducted with these planes.³ 25X1

4. A VPL pilot met with a fatal accident when trying to take off. The moral of the 1st VPL Division deteriorated because many of the promises made during the recruiting campaign for the VPL units were not kept. Thus, for instance, it was decreed that week-end leaves were to be granted not every two weeks but only once during a 3-month period. Most VPL soldiers were disgusted when they were informed that after March 1953 VPL soldiers would have to pay taxes.

1. [redacted] Comment. This is the first report indicating the possibility of the organization of a new VPL unit in Oranienburg. So far it has been believed that Oranienburg airfield would be used by a Soviet unit after its completion.

2. [redacted] Comment. Since early April 1953, VPL pilots had been given initial pilot training at Dresden-Klotzsche airfield. Bautzen-Litten airfield had to be vacated because of construction work there. [redacted]

3. [redacted] Comment. Shipments of crated aircraft, probably MiG-15s, dispatched to Cottbus airfield included: 20 crates on 3 April; 25 crates on 11 April; and 30 crates on 13 April 1953. [redacted]

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